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The Corporation

The Corporation, a 2003 film by Jennifer Abbott and Mark Achbar describes the impact of corporations on our world. The film states that corporations are psychopaths and that corporations are doing terrible things, and need to change. The Corporation balances emotional appeal and scientific evidence to create a compelling film. The film begins by listing things that corporations have done in the past, and correlating those with the symptoms of psychopathy. The film shows corporations breaking laws for profit, and exploiting people in other countries.

The legal framework for corporations creates sustainability problems. The behavior of corporations is dangerous to humans, and threatens to ruin our planet. Because corporations are designed purely for profit, they have no regard for the wellbeing of anyone. Corporations exploit workers overseas and destroy the natural environment to extract resources and make a profit. In addition, corporations lack moral responsibility. The framework of corporations can turn a collection of good people, such as the Shell employees, into a psychopathic monstrosity.

The most compelling part of the film was the description of a corporation as a psychopath. The extreme things that corporations have done for profit is appalling. The attempt to diagnose corporations with a psychological disorder makes people wonder why we still allow them to be formed. The least convincing part of the film was the comparison of corporations to Godzilla and Frankenstein, which seemed overly dramatic.

The audience for the film is people who have heard about some of the terrible things that corporations have done, but think that those are just minor isolated incidents. The film argues that the criminal acts of corporations are not isolated incidents, but rather manifestations of their psychopathic design. The film suggests multiple courses of action, suitable for various people. The film suggests fighting with lawyers to disband corporations, because corporations can be legally disincorporated. The film also suggests fighting against corporations locally, and restricting corporations one town at a time, by not allowing corporations to open business fronts there. In addition, the film suggests violent revolts against corporations that are infringing on basic necessities of life, such as restricting access to water. Finally, there is a suggestion to change corporations, such as Interface, the carpet company, who is aiming to be sustainable.

Interface, the carpet manufacturer aiming to be sustainable, manufactures carpets in convenient squares, for modular replacement. Interface includes information on their website about how they are becoming more sustainable. In contrast, Monsanto is not sustainable, and their website contains information trying to convince the reader that agriculture needs improvement.